

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1211

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, SP

SUBJ: SAADOUN GHAIIDAN TO ATTEND FRANCO'S FUNERAL

1. IRAQI PRESS ANNOUNCED ON NOV. 22 THAT SAADOUN GHAIIDAN, RCC MEMBER AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, WOULD TRAVEL BY SPECIAL PLANE TO MADRID TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF GENERAL FRANCO IN SPAIN ON NOV. 23. GHAIIDAN ALSO TO ATTEND CORONATION OF JUAN CARLOS.

2. GHAIIDAN, AS ONE OF SIX MEMBERS OF RCC, RANKS NEAR TOP OF IRAQI PECKING ORDER AND HIS PRESENCE IN SPAIN REFLECTS WARMTH OF IRAQI-SPANISH RELATIONS AS WELL AS APPRECIATION FOR SPAIN'S POSTURE ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUS. AT SAME TIME, GHAIIDAN IS ONLY MEMBER OF RCC WHO IS NOT SIMULTANEOUSLY A MEMBER OF BAATH REGIONAL COMMAND. HIS SELECTION AS ENVOY TO SPANISH REGIME THUS AVOIDS IDEOLOGICAL IMPROPRIETIES FOR IRAQ'S MARXIST-ORIENTED BAATHI REGIME.
WILEY

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